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New Literature

The most important books listed in these columns will receive notice in the book-review pages.

OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS

TORREY, C. C. *Ezra Studies*. Chicago: The University of Chicago Press, 1910. Pp. xv + 346. \$1.50.

If the positions taken in this book be correct, they will make it necessary for most of us to revise completely our conceptions of the course of events in Palestine from the fall of Babylon in 538 B. C. to the coming of Alexander in 333 B. C. The Chronicler is here represented as the writer of a religious history in which adherence to facts played little part. The dominant things in his work are his vivid imagination and his religious bias. The book will necessitate a fresh study of *Chronicles*, *Ezra*, and *Nehemiah*, for no defense of the essentially historical character of these books can afford to disregard Professor Torrey's studies. Whatever may be thought as to the historical and literary positions of the author, he must at least be given credit for some excellent textual work.

DAVIES, T. WITTON. *Ezra, Nehemiah, and Esther*. Introduction, Revised Version, with Notes, Maps, and Index. [The Century Bible.] Edinburgh: T. C. & E. C. Jack, 1909. Pp. 384. 2s. 6d.

This is the best popular English commentary on these books in existence. The attitude taken is on the whole one of confidence in the biblical text as it stands. Yet the opinions of scholars of contrary view, like Kosters, Torrey, Buhl, and Van Hoonacker, are given due consideration.

WIENER, H. M. *Essays in Pentateuchal Criticism*. Oberlin: Bibliotheca Sacra Co., 1909. Pp. 230. \$1.50.

A reprint of six articles from the *Bibliotheca Sacra* of last year. They are heralded as "the most damaging indictment of the Higher Criticism that has ever been made." But criticism will survive.

KAUTZSCH, E. *Die heilige Schrift des Alten Testaments*. 3d ed., Part 16. Tübingen: J. C. B. Mohr, 1909. Pp. 64. M. 0.80.

This constitutes the first instalment of Vol. II. The Minor Prophets are here taken up and progress is made as far as Habakkuk. The commentators are Guthe, Marti, and Kautzsch. The liberty exercised in this third edition in the realms of both textual and higher criticism is a marked advance upon the second edition.

ARTICLES

DAY, E. Is the Book of Hosea Exilic? *American Journal of Semitic Languages*, January, 1910. Pp. 105-32.

This question is answered in the affirmative, but the grounds alleged as basis for this view will hardly convince many.

BREASTED, J. H. The Earliest Social Prophet. *American Journal of Theology*, January, 1910. Pp. 114-16.

This is a critical note setting forth the character and significance of a very important Egyptian narrative which exhibits features analogous to Hebrew prophecy, though centuries earlier than the first of the prophets of Israel.

DE LONG, I. H. The Importance of the Study of Hebrew in a Theological Course. *The Reformed Church Review*, January, 1910. Pp. 1-27.

The inaugural address of the new professor of Hebrew and Old Testament science in the Theological Seminary at Lancaster, Pa. It is a very good presentation of the theory that all candidates for the ministry should be required to study Hebrew.

RIESZLER, P. Wann wirkte Nehemias? *Theologische Quartalschrift*, January, 1910. Pp. 1-6.

An attempt to show that the Assuan papyri contribute nothing toward the settlement of the date of Nehemiah. The method of proof is that of positing a Babylonian form *šāngu-uballat* as the original of Sanaballat and then concluding that this name was not personal, but only an official title which might be borne by successive officers, and thus cannot be an evidence of date.

LOISY, ALFRED. La notion du sacrifice dans l'antiquité israélite. *Revue d'histoire et de littérature religieuse*, January, 1910. Pp. 1-30.

An interesting résumé of the history of sacrifice in Israel from the point of view of its psychological significance. The author rightly sees that the meaning of the rite was not always the same, but changed with differing occasions and times.

NEW TESTAMENT

BOOKS

ANDERSON, EDWARD E. The Gospel According to St. Matthew. With Introduction and Notes. [Handbooks for Bible Classes.] Edinburgh: Clark; New York: Scribner, 1909. Pp. xxi + 243. \$0.75.

Mr. Anderson holds that the First Gospel was written between 75 and 90 A. D., both the Gospel of Mark and Matthew's Sayings of the Lord being embodied in it. The introduction and comments are intelligent and discriminating, and the handbook should be very useful to students and pastors.

HAWKINS, JOHN C. Horae Synopticae: Contributions to the Study of the Synoptic Problem. 2d ed., revised and supplemented. Oxford: Clarendon Press, 1909. Pp. xvi + 223. 10s. 6d. net.

Horae Synopticae is a compact, discriminating, and unbiased presentation of the chief resemblances and differences of the Synoptic Gospels. In this new edition, it is more than ever useful to students of the gospels, and especially of the synoptic problem.

ALEXANDER, GROSS. The Epistles to the Colossians and to the Ephesians. [The Bible for Home and School.] New York: Macmillan, 1910. Pp. vii + 132. \$0.50 net.

Dr. Alexander has given us in small compass a spirited and sympathetic commentary on Colossians and Ephesians. He connects them with Paul's Roman imprisonment, A. D. 62-63, and regards Ephesians as a circular letter intended for the churches of Asia. The positions are in general conservative.

REGNAULT, HENRI. Une province procuratorienne au début de l'Empire Romain: Le Procès de Jésus-Christ. Paris: Picard, 1909. Pp. 144. Fr. 4.

A study of the financial, military, administrative, and judicial organization of Judea in New Testament times, with especial reference to the trial of Jesus.

STEINMANN, ALPHONS. Aretas IV, König der Nabatäer, Eine historisch-exegetische Studie zu 2 Cor. 11:32 f. Freiburg im Breisgau: Herder, 1909. Pp. 44.

Dr. Steinmann presents evidence tending to show that Aretas IV, king of the Nabataeans of Arabia, secured possession of Damascus in 37 A. D. by a grant of the Emperor Gaius. Aretas died in 40 A. D. In the interval, the Arab governor who represented him was stirred up by the Jews against Paul. Paul's conversion, Steinmann concludes, must thus have fallen between 34 and 37 A. D.

ARTICLES

BACON, B. W. Notes on Gospel Chronology. *Journal of Biblical Literature*, XXVIII, 2. Pp. 130-48.

A careful collection and criticism of primitive and patristic evidence as to the birth, ministry, and death of Jesus, brings Professor Bacon to the important conclusion that A. D. 33 or 34 is astronomically the most probable date for Jesus' death; that his ministry was probably about two years in length, and that his birth fell about 8 B. C. His life would thus be much longer than has generally been supposed.

ROPES, JAMES H. The Text of the Epistle of James. *Ibid.*, pp. 103-29.

Professor Ropes has subjected the text of James to a critical examination, and presents some conclusions of his study. *Vaticanus* and the Old Latin *Corbeiensis* (ninth century) prove to be the best witnesses for the text. This discussion and evaluation of the manuscripts and versions of James, form a significant contribution to New Testament textual study.

RELATED SUBJECTS

BOOKS

HASTINGS, JAMES (editor). *Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*. Vol. II. New York: Scribner, 1910. Pp. xxii+901. \$7.

This great volume well sustains the high level established by its predecessor. It begins with Arthur and ends with Bunyan. The scope of its contents is marvelous. For Bible students the two most important articles are Professor Sanday's "Bible" and Professor Dobschütz's "Bible in the Church." Every good library must secure this encyclopedia.

LEUBA, J. H. *The Psychological Origin and Nature of Religion*. [Religions Ancient and Modern.] Chicago: Open Court Publishing Co., 1909. Pp. 95. \$0.40.

A very clear and sane statement of a difficult subject. It brings the important themes it discusses well within the range and time of any educated man.

NAVILLE, EDOUARD. *The Old Egyptian Faith*. [Crown Theological Library.] New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons, 1909. Pp. xx+321. \$1.25.

A popular handbook on the religion of the Egyptians by one who has long been a leader in the French school of Egyptologists. With this volume and that by Erman in his possession, the average man can obtain a fairly complete and satisfactory understanding of the subject.

DE GROOT, J. J. M. *The Religion of the Chinese*. [The Hartford-Lamson Lectures on the Religions of the World.] New York: Macmillan, 1910. Pp. vii+230. \$1.25.

A series of lectures delivered before Hartford Theological Seminary by the author who is second to none as an authority upon China and the Chinese. The purpose of the series is to furnish candidates for the ministry in general and the mission field in particular such information as they need for a successful approach to the task of converting the followers of other religions to Christianity. This volume will well repay reading to those interested in practical missionary activities as well as those whose interest is rather that of the student.

ELLIS, W. T. *Men and Missions*. Philadelphia: The Sunday School Times Co., 1909. Pp. 315. \$1.

A well-written little book by a practical man who has secured a fairly full and accurate knowledge of missions as they are and would help put them where they ought to be. The average layman may learn much from it.